A-AMA-ZING
JUST NOW...
DIDN'T THAT REACH ABOUT 140 KM/H?
O-OKAY!
I GOT A GOOD LOOK AT THE BIGGER YOSHIZAWA'S PITCH!
NEXT IS THE SMALLER YOSHIZAWA!!

サイレン

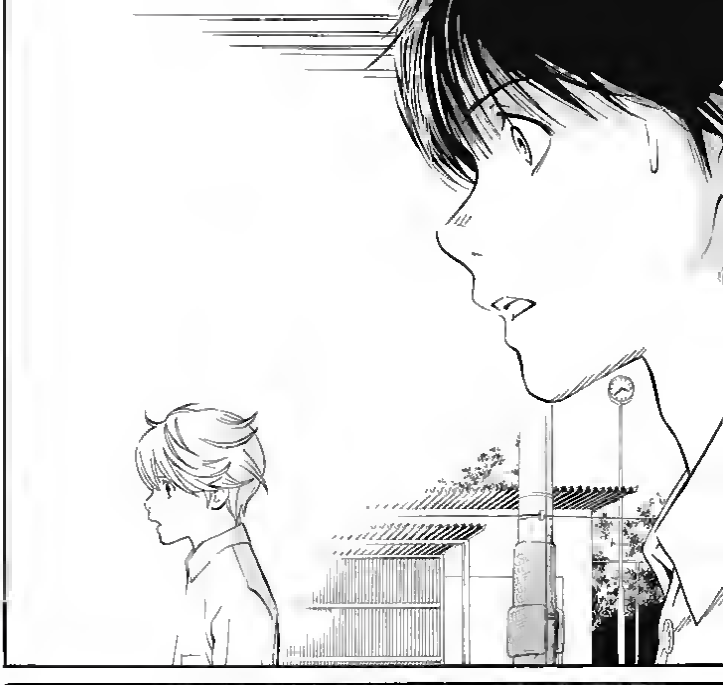
群青に

[CHAPTER 3]

WHAT THE HELL? DON'T CATCH THE BALL SO ROUGHLY.
NOW THEN, LET'S SEE THE LITTLE YOSHIZAWA'S FASTBALL TOO, RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE.

NICE PITCH!

OKAY!
IF YOU COMPARE HIS PITCH TO THE BIGGER YOSHIZAWA'S, IT'S CLEARLY SLOWER
BUT, YOU KNOW
WELL, HIS BODY IS SMALL
EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW SAME
ヒュン!
THE LITTLE YOSHIZAWA WILL BE ON THE OUTFIELD!
STARTING TODAY, THE BIG YOSHIZAWA WILL BE THE PITCHER!

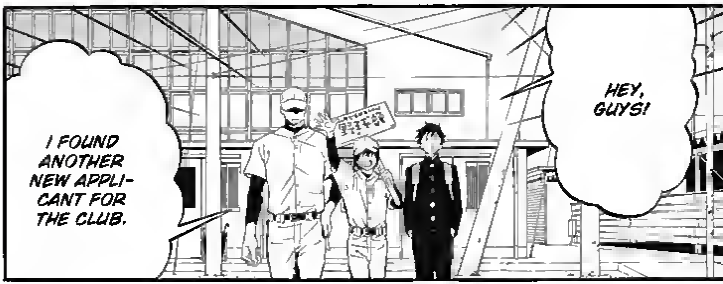


PLE-

PLEASE, WAIT A MOMENT!
HUH?
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER HOW MANY PITCHERS WE HAVE, RIGHT? BESIDES, I...

OUR CLUB HAS MANY PEOPLE, BUT THERE AREN'T THAT MANY GOOD PLAYERS.
YOU'RE SMALL, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE A GOOD SHOULDER, AND IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE AS A PITCHER YOU PROBABLY HAVE A GOOD SENSE FOR BASEBALL.
IN THIS CASE I HAVE TO PUT YOU TO WORK AS A FIELDER.
HEY, DON'T SULK
IN OUR CASE NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE PROTECTING IT'S LIKE EVERYONE IS A RESERVE PITCHER.
YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE.
There
There
There
.....
I'M GLAD THAT THIS YEAR WE HAVE SUCH DEPENDABLE FIRST YEARS!
YOU WERE LYING WHEN YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T PLAY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL RIGHT?
Gotcha!
WAH!

NO TO TELL YOU! THE TRUTH, BASEBALL TO ME IS.....


HEY, GUYS!
I FOUND ANOTHER NEW APPLI-CANT FOR THE CLUB.

HMM? THERE ARE SOME KIDS I DON'T KNOW?!!
Could it be?!
Could it be?!
HEY, TAMA-CHAN,

LET'S MAKE OUR YOUTH BLOOM TOGETHER!
BASEBALL CLUB
H-HELLO!
I'M TAMAI, A 2ND YEAR. TERADA-KUN IS ALSO A 2ND YEAR.
AND...
HELLO! I'M MIZOGUCHI TEPPEI. FIRST YEAR, CLASS 2!
I PLAYED AS A SHORTSTOP AT IWATA NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL!
DOES THIS CLUB HAVE A MANAGER?
TO BE HONEST I WASN'T GOING TO JOIN THE CLUB BUT...
IF THERE'S A PRETTY MANAGER WHO'S GOING TO MAKE ME COOKIES EVERYDAY THEN I'M APPLYING!
SHH! SHH!

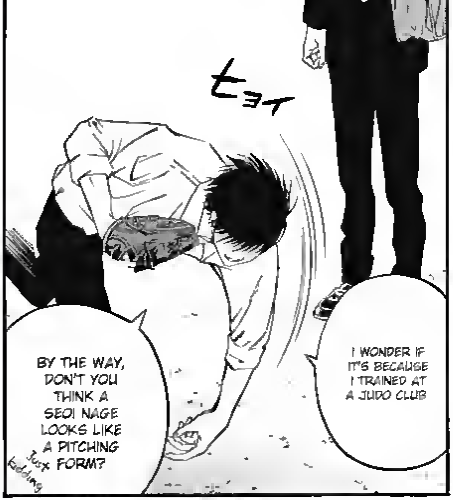
おお
CAPTAIN! I AM THE SHORTSTOP, RIGHT? I'M A 2ND YEAR, SO I HAVE SENIORITY!
TAMA-CHAN YOU'RE REALLY GOOD AT MAKING SWEETS
Hehe!
おお
おお
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S MURA-MATSU?
GIVE ME SOME TOO! I SHOULD ALSO HAVE THE RIGHT TO EAT THAT!
ISN'T HE SKIP-PING TODAY?
ANYWAY ABOUT THE SHORT STOP-
TAMA-CHAN YOU SHOULDN'T DECEIVE PEOPLE LIKE THAT
BUT GOOD JOB!
I WAS ALSO LURED WITH TAMA-CHAN'S COOKIES, BUT HE DIDN'T MAKE ME ANYMORE AFTER JOINING THE CLUB!
AH!
HEY, WHY DID YOU BRING ANOTHER SHORT-STOP TO JOIN US?

L-LOOKS LIKE...
THIS CLUB IS REALLY USELESS...
BUT EVEN SO...

WASN'T SORA, BUT ME!
THE ONE CHOOSEN TO BE THE ACE...

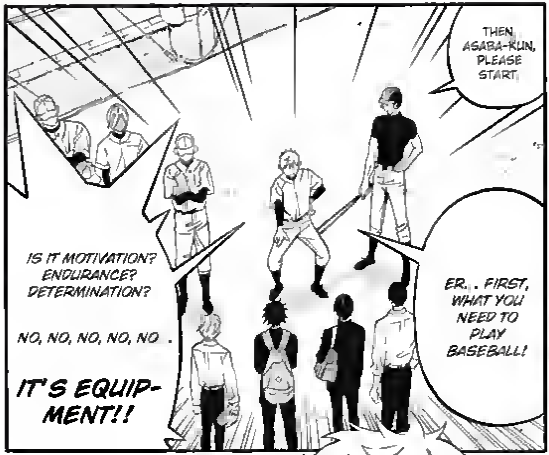
WELL, THIS IS EXPECTED.
THIS OUTCOME IS OBVIOUS WHEN YOU CONSIDER OUR PHYSICAL DISPARITY
HONESTLY, I WAS AFRAID THAT YOU COULD THROW A GOOD PITCH EVEN WITH THAT BODY
BUT, THIS IS FINE, RIGHT?

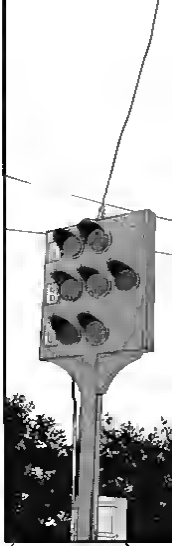
BECAUSE, YOU ALREADY HAVE EVERY-THING...
SO IT SHOULD BE FINE IF I GET ONE THING..
AMA-ZING.
!
TO THINK THAT A FIRST YEAR THAT JUST ENROLLED COULD THROW THAT FAST...
YEAH, I THINK IT'S AMAZING.


ヒョイ
I WONDER IF IT'S BECAUSE I TRAINED AT A JUDO CLUB
BY THE WAY, DON'T YOU THINK A SEOI NAGE LOOKS LIKE A PITCHING FORM?
Suddenly

T/N: SEOI NAGE IS A SHOULDER THROW IN JUDO

I DIDN'T NOTICE YOU LIKE BASEBALL...
SORRY.
LIKE?
IS THERE...
ANYONE THAT KEEPS PLAYING BASEBALL BECAUSE THEY LIKE IT?
HEY, FIRST YEARS, GATHER HERE!
EH...?


THEN, AGABA-KUN, PLEASE START.
ER.. FIRST, WHAT YOU NEED TO PLAY BASEBALL!
IS IT MOTIVATION? ENDURANCE? DETERMINATION?
NO, NO, NO, NO, NO.
IT'S EQUIP-MENT!!



WITH THAT SAID I'LL GET YOUR ORDERS FOR THE FULL SET AT OUR ASABA SPORTS STORE!
PRACTICE CLOTHES! AND A BAG FOR AWAY GAMES! WITH A DISCOUNT OF MY LOVE, IT'S JUST 20,000!

BUT YOU BETTER NOT BUY GLOVES FROM THIS GUY'S SHOP.
THEY'RE OLD AND LAME, AND THEY ONLY HAVE STUFF FROM THIS UNKNOWN MAKER.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED! WE'RE JUST AN OLD, HANDED-DOWN SHOP IN AN OLD CITY!
SO YOU ARE NOT DENYING IT.

1 SS SIZE, 1 M SIZE, 1 L SIZE AND 1 O SIZE
I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT
OKAY! THEN YOU'RE ALL DISMISSED FOR TODAY.
AS HE SAID BEFORE, YOU DON'T HAVE EQUIPMENT
I'LL BRING WHAT YOU ORDERED TOMORROW!
Don't forget the money
EH!?
BUT WE HAVE A GAME THIS WEEKEND, RIGHT?
ESPECIALLY THE PITCHER,
HE STILL NEEDS A GLOVE FOR HARDBALLS

OH YEAH, BOTH THE LITTLE AND THE BIG ONE ARE LEFT-HANDED
BUT HE'S LEFT-HANDED
IF I'M NOT WRONG, WE HAVE SOME FIELDER'S GLOVES IN OUR CLUB ROOM
OH, RIGHT! LITTLE YOSHI-ZAWA, LET HIM BORROW YOUR GLOVE
AH...
PLEASE,
STOP CALLING ME LITTLE!

A-AH
I KNOW HOW HE FEELS THOSE WORDS HURT A LOT.
OUR CAPTAIN DOESN'T HAVE ANY DELICACY
O-HO! A SHORTY PITYING ANOTHER SHORTY?
I'M NOT SMALL, SO I DON'T KNOW HOW SHORTIES FEEL...
OUCH!
Teradaa RUN!
.....

I'M HOME
WEL-COME BACK.

HM?
IT'S ABOUT MY CLUB.
CAN WE TALK?

I'M THINK-ING...
OF JOINING THE BASE-BALL CLUB.
BUT IT'S A REALLY HOPELESS CLUB! AND I THINK THEY ARE SUPER WEAK!
THAT'S WHY I THINK THE PARENT'S ASSOCIATION WON'T GIVE YOU TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
ISN'T IT FINE?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
BUT IT'LL COST A LOT, YOU KNOW? JUST THE GLOVE IS THOUSANDS OF YENS

YOU DON'T NEED TO HOLD BACK IF IT'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MONEY, SILLY!

YOUR FATHER ALSO PLAYED AT KUROISHI BASEBALL CLUB RIGHT?

THEN LET'S GO BUY THE GLOVE NOW!
E...EH?
AKO, I THINK THE MILKMAN IS COMING SOON, SO PAY HIM.

IF I WERE AGAINST IT YOUR FATHER WOULD BE ANGRY WITH ME

HMM... WAS IT IN FRONT OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOL?
THERE WAS A STORE THERE... IF I'M NOT WRONG IT WAS CALLED ASA... ASABA SPORTS...
N-
NO! IT'S NOT THERE! THERE'S A BIG STORE ON THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY, REMEMBER?
NEXT IS A FLY!
YEAH!!

Y-YES!
SHUUJI! DON'T SPACE OUT LIKE THAT!
I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO QUIT AFTER THAT
THAT GUY...
EVEN SO, IT'S SCARY
ONLY SOMEONE WITH A BODY LIKE YOURS CAN CATCH THIS PITCH
I'M SURE THOSE GUYS FROM JOUYOU ARE GOING TO BE SURPRISED
メメメ
UWOOH!!

CURRENTLY, THERE ARE TWO SCHOOLS IN KUROISHI CITY.
ONE IS THE PREFECTURAL KUROISHI HIGH SHCOOL, AND THE OTHER IS THE PRIVATE JOUYOU ACADEMY.
AIMING TO INCREASE THE AMITY BETWEEN THE TWO SCHOOLS' BASEBALL CLUBS, THERE'S A OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT WITHIN THE CITY
THAT HAPPENS AROUND THIS SEASON EVERY YEAR.
JOUYOU ACADEMY?
THE ONE THAT'S REGULARLY ON THE TOP FOUR OF THE PREFECTURE?
AND SHOULDN'T WE GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT THEM...?
THAT'S USELESS!
THEY'LL ONLY BRING THEIR FIRST YEARS TO THIS MATCH!
AND WE ALREADY HAVE 18 CONSECUTIVE DEFEATS AGAINST THEM...
GUH!

YOU KNOW... OUR CLUB MOTTO IS "LET'S HAVE FUN"...
SHOULDN'T YOU BE MORE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?
EIGHTEEN CONSECUTIVE LOSSES...
AS IF I COULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT
THERE'S NO MEANING IF I DON'T WIN.
IN FRONT OF HIM...
I DEFINITELY HAVE TO SHOW RESULTS!

ズ
……

3
4
11
PITCHER, MURA-ATSU-UN.
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY
IS IT BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T GET THE ACE NUMBER?
10
11

ISN'T THAT NICE? I WANTED TO PLAY WITH EVERYONE TOO.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! YOU'RE OUR SECRET WEAPON, AFTER ALL!
NOT REALLY.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT VERTICAL STRIPES GIVE OFF THIS STRONG AURA?
JOLIYOU'S UNIFORM IS COOL, RIGHT?
TODAY IS THE FIRST TIME WE'RE SEEING OUR COACH!
AH, THEY HIT AGAIN
WAH
AH, THEY GOT A HIT
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH I WANTED TO GO TO JOLIYOU
SO, ANYWAY,

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW LAZY HE IS?
HIS APPEARANCE TOO! IT'S STRANGE HOW THAT LONG HAIR DOESN'T MAKE HIS SUPERIORS MAD AT HIM
Is it because we're weak?
KURO
HIEE!!!

K
...SO SIMPLE.
K

WHY ARE THEY GOING WITH A FASTBALL AGAIN? IT'S OBVIOUS IT'LL GET HIT.
THE PITCHER IS FLUSTERED TOO... HE SHOULD JUST TAKE HIS TIME.
It's AH about the game.

EH? ME? WHAT'S WITH THAT HARSH OPINION?
THAT'S NOT IT.
KUROISH

LEAVING THAT ASIDE, NEXT IS THE CLEANUP, RIGHT?
I'M FAST SO IT'S FINE
AREN'T THEY TRICKY FOR YOU TOO?
HE PROBABLY ISN'T CONFIDENT IN HIS BREAKING PITCHES
I SEE HE'S PERFECT FOR BATTING PRACTICE
OKAY! I'M GOING TO HIT A HOMERUN OUTSIDE THE STADIUM!
BATTING FOURTH, CENTER FIELD, ICHIYANAGI-KUN.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD SET YOUR DEFENSE FURTHER...

WAA
チ!
RIGHT!

ONE RUN!
TWO RUNS!
THREE RUNS!
I'LL HAVE TO RUN TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE I HIT A HOME-RUN WITH BASES LOADED!
TCH!
WA!
WA!

STOP, STOOOP!
AH.
OH!
NICE CATCH, TSUNOGAYA!
DAMN IT!

CALM DOWN
WE'RE GOING AT THE SAME PACE FOR A CALLED GAME IN THE FIFTH INNING RIGHT FROM THE START JUST LIKE LAST YEAR
ASABA-SENPAI, DO YOUR BEST!
HUNF!
I'VE FELT IRRITATED EVER SINCE TSUNOGAYA STOLE MY POSITION
FIRST BATE SECOND BASE ASABA 2ND YEAR
THAT'S WHY...
I'LL MAKE A HIT!

NYAHA
HA
HA
3
JUST AS I EXPECTED.
OOH!!

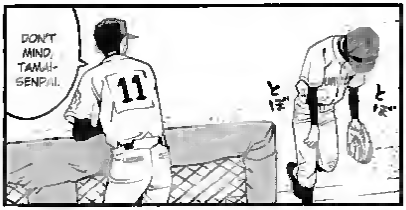
SECOND BATTER
SHORTSTOP
SUNOGAYA
(1ST YEAR)
AAH!
So close!
SAFETY BUNT!

THIRD BATTER
FIRST BASE
SUZUKI (3RD YEAR)
W-WHAT'S WITH THIS EXCITING DEVELOPMENT!!
CAPTAIN, GIVE US A HOMERUN!!
FOURTH BATTER
THIRD BASE
KANEKO (3RD YEAR)
FIFTH BATTER
CATCHER
TERADA (2ND YEAR)
KUROISHI
YEAH! FIRST RUN!

STRIKE! BATTER OUT!
Ha
YURUIN
5
1
NUMBER 10!
SWITCH WITH NUMBER 9 AND GO TO THE RIGHT SIDE!
WHAT WAS THAT? WE WERE EXPECTING A LOT FROM YOU!
Even though you two are the cleanup and fifth batter
YUROISHI
SHUT UP! CAN YOU HIT THAT SLIDER?!
THREE OUTS, CHANGE SIDES!
HUNG
2

HONESTLY.... MY REFLEXES AREN'T THAT GREAT.
TAMAI-SENPAI, YOU WERE AT THE THIRD BASE COACH'S BOX, RIGHT?

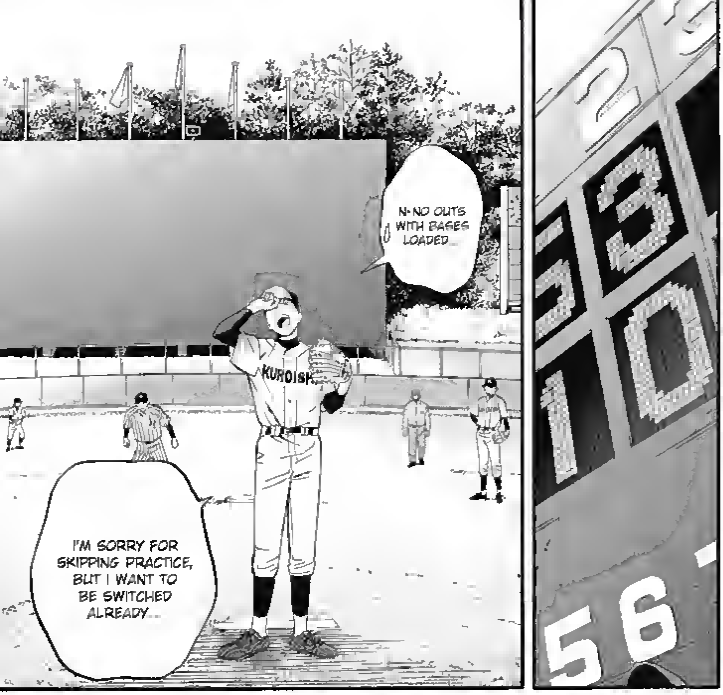
Hurry and go
In my thoughts
I'LL DO MY VERY BEST!
REALLY?! GREAT!


DON'T MIND, TAMAI-SENPAI.

IF POSSIBLE I'D LIKE YOU TO HELP ME CHECK SOMETHING AT OUR NEXT OFFENSIVE.
LOOKS LIKE THIS PITCHER HAS A HABIT.
YEAH

SHU.... SHUUJI-KUN...
HE TAKES A DEEP BREATH, AND IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT FROM WHEN HE'S THROWING OTHER PITCHES.
IT MAY BE JUST MY IMAGINATION, BUT BEFORE THROWING A SLIDER,

WOULDN'T IT BE AMAZING IF IT'S TRUE?
OF COURSE...
DON'T WE WANT TO WIN?
IT'S INCREDIBLE HOW YOU NOTICED THAT!


N-NO OUTS WITH BASES LOADED...
KUROISH
I'M SORRY FOR SKIPPING PRACTICE, BUT I WANT TO BE SWITCHED ALREADY...

DAMN IF IT WAS ME...!
NUMBER 11.
KUROISH

FOUR BALLS!

DEAD BALL!

I SAW YOU PITCHING.
11

IT WOULD BE COOL IF YOU COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS SITUATION, RIGHT?
K
HOW ABOUT IT?
CAN YOU DO IT?

WE HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR KUROISHI'S PLAYERS CHANGE.
I KNOW. I THINK SO TOO...
I C-CAN'T... I DON'T WANT TO PITCH ANYMORE
PLEASE, SUB SUBSTITUTE ME...
KUROISHI
SUBSTITUTING MURAMATSU-KUN AS PITCHER,
SHUUJI-KUN.

THANKS JULIZEN FOR PROOFREADING IT FOR ME!

群青にサイレン

NAOSHI TSUNOGAYA